However, the projects at Item Nos. 2 to 5 could not be considered in view of acute constraint of resources.

Vacant Railway Land

1926. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge lands belonging to Railways are lying vacant;

(b) whether Government proposed to lease these lands for commercial purposes to increase the revenue of Railway; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Railways have about 4,23,000 hectares (ha) of land out of which 20,000 ha of land is vacant, mostly in longitudinal strips along the track. This land is required by Railway for its own use. The land which is not needed for immediate use, however, is utilised temporarily for plantation, commercial licensing for purposes directly connected with Railway working etc.

New Trains in Rajasthan

†1927. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people of Rajasthan have demanded connectivity of the State by railway lines with various States of the country in view of its vast potential for the same;

(b) the steps being taken by Government for introducing new trains from Anoopgarh to Delhi via Bhatinda (express train running at night), Jodhpur to Thiruvananthapuram, Amritsar to Mumbai via Bikaner, Jodhpur and Ahmedabad and Coimbatore to Jodhpur in this regard;

(c) if so, the comprehensive details thereof along with the time-limit fixed for the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIR. VELU): (a) There is vast railway network of rail lines in Rajasthan which provides connectivity of the State with various States of the country. Demands for new lines are received from time to time and necessary action is taken based on various considerations. At present, the surveys of following new lines are in progress which extend from the State to other neighbouring States:—

i) New line from Bari Sadri to Neemuch.

ii) New line from Jaisalmer to Kandla.

in) New line from Banswara to Ratlam via Dungarpur.

iv) New line from Ujjain to Jhalawar/Ramganjmandi.

(b) to (d) Introduction of trains on Indian railways including ex-Jodhpur is an ongoing process subject to traffic pattern, operational feasibility and availability of resources. However, there is no proposal, at present, to introduce trains on the suggested routes due to operational and resource constraints.

Expenditure incurred by Maharashtra Government

1928. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of arrears of expenditure incurred by Government of Maharasthra on Railway Police, is due from the Railways to that Government;

(b) if so, the amount of such arrears as on 31st March, 2003 and 2004;

(c) whether any procedure has been laid down for streamlining the clearance of such dues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and how far it is adopted for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The claims amounting to Rs. 24.92 crore only are outstanding for want of non-availability of Audit Certificate,